

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PORT O 03075 232204Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 232140Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8621

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

S E C R E T PORT OF SPAIN 3075

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CU, AO, TD, GY

SUBJECT: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

REF: A) STATE 300139; B) PORT OF SPAIN 3072;

C) PORT OF SPAIN 3043

1. DURING A PRIVATE MEETING WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS AT HIS RESIDENCE DEC 23, I PROVIDED HIM WITH THE INFORMATION IN ANGOLA SITUATION REPORT NO. 4 (REF A). WILLIAMS EXPRESSED GREAT CONTINUING INTEREST IN THIS PROBLEM AND WE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ME TO PROVIDE HIM FURTHER SITUATION INFORMATION AS REPORTS ARE RECEIVED HERE.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED ME IF WE HAD ANY CONFIRMATION OF THE ALLEGATION IN THE TRINIDAD PRESS TODAY (REF B) THAT GUYANA WAS PERMITTING CUBAN MILITARY REFUELING STOPS ENROUTE TO ANGOLA. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT EXPECT BURNHAM TO PERMIT SUCH FLIGHTS. I NOTED THAT I WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS BUT PROMISED TO LET HIM KNOW IF WE HAD ANY MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION.

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3. REGARDING THE TRINIDADIAN GOVERNMENT'S DENIAL OF

CUBAN PERMISSION TO REFULE MILITARY FLIGHTS TO ANGOLA, WILLIAMS STATED THAT HIS CABINET HAD NEVER BEEN MORE UNANIMOUS ON ANY SUBJECT AND HE FELT THAT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES HAD NO BUSINESS INVOLVING THEMSELVES IN SUCH INTERVENTION.

4. COMMENT: WILLIAMS IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN THE REACTION OF OTHER CARIBBEAN STATES IN THIS CURRENT SITUATION AND ALSO INQUIRED OF ME HOW LONG BARBADIAN PRIME MINISTER BARROW HAD BEEN AWARE OF THE OVERFLIGHTS PRIOR TO STOPPING THEM. IT SEEMED TO WORRY HIM THAT THE FLIGHTS MAY HAVE PROCEEDED FOR SOME TIME BEFORE BARBADOS TOOK FORTHRIGHT ACTION. I MADE NO COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFO ON BARBADOS, HOWEVER, SINCE FLIGHTS ARE NOW STOPPED.
RICH

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NNN

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